

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2008

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by First Vice Chair Chris Thomas at 7:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)  
Chris Vessey (City of McCleary)  
Commissioner Tom Casey (GHPUD)  
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport)  
Don Fargo (Grays Harbor Transit)

Administrative Sub-Council

First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)  
Second Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)  
Secretary – Jonathan Ciesla (Quinault Indian Nation)

Guests: Debbie Clemen (WSDOT)

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Julia Gibb, Nancy Trask

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

*Jonathan Ciesla made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed.*

➤ Approval of the January 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes

*Chris Vessey made a motion to approve the GHCOG February 28, 2008 meeting minutes; second Commission Caldwell. Motion passed.*

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report, First Vice Chair Thomas

First Vice-Chair Chris Thomas reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting and approved the March bills, the April payroll and Theresa to attend a GIS conference in Auburn in May. No further action was taken.

**New Business**

- Resolution No. 487, Approval of the 2006-2007 RTPO Contract, Amendment No. 2  
Vicki presented Resolution No. 487 which is Amendment No. 2 to the GHCOG/CWCOG RTPO 2006-2007 contract. Additional funding in the amount of \$9,200.00 was awarded to the GHCOG for work completed on the design team projects for the City of Westport and the City of Ocean Shores. The contract in effect was amended and approved via signatures of both parties, but due to a federal fiscal year closing date the accompanying resolution was overlooked. In keeping with standard operating procedure, the GHCOG seeks to retroactively approve this amendment through resolution. ***Chris Vessey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 487; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed.***
  
- Resolution No. 488, Approval of the 2007-2008 RTPO Contract, Amendment No. 1  
Vicki presented Resolution No. 488 which is Amendment No. 1 to the GHCOG/CWCOG RTPO 2007-2008 contract. Additional funding in the amount of \$5,000 has been awarded to the GHCOG for the purpose of providing match dollars for the SR 109 Corridor Management Plan; therefore, increasing the 2007-2008 contract amount to \$40,000.00. ***Jonathan Ciesla made a motion to approve Resolution No. 487; second Commissioner Caldwell. Motion passed.***
  
- Transportation Update (Discussion)
  - Highways of Statewide Significance – Vicki stated DOT is working on updating the highways of statewide significance. The update is done every five (5) years. In Grays Harbor our highways of statewide significance include SR 101, SR 12 and SR 8 in their entirety. Basically if a highway is considered statewide significant it means that our DOT sets to level of service standards for that piece of roadway rather than it being done locally. The highway is then identified in the Washington Transportation Plan as an essential public facility. If there is a cataclysmic event and there is any damage that occurs, those are the highways that DOT has the mandate to make publicly safe and keep open and operating. Those are the lifeline highways.
  
  - WSDOT 20 Year Systems Plan - (2007-2026) The highway systems plan is part of the Washington Transportation Plan and it addresses specifically the state's highway system. It includes an assessment of all of the existing deficiencies and projected deficiencies that exist on the state highway system over the next 20 years. It also lists potential solutions to those deficiencies. A project located on the state system must be identified in the 20 year systems plan in order to be funded and constructed. Every 2 to 3 years DOT goes through the 20 year systems plan so it gets an update to make sure that all of the projects are relevant and current.

The highways systems plan for Grays Harbor County identifies about \$91 million in projects over the next 20 years. Those projects include about \$56.8 million for bridge work, \$4.7 million for chip seal, \$13.4 million for paving projects, \$10.7 million for different safety improvements and preservation work, and \$3.5 million for fish passage improvements.

Vicki stated there is another level involved in the highway systems plan which identifies mobility strategies to fight congestion and keep people and goods moving. Grays Harbor projects identified in this section include:

- Addition of a climbing lane on US 101 s of Artic Road
- Creating a double left turn lane at the US 101/SR 109 intersection
- A safety rest area site selection study – Elma and Olympic National Forest vicinities
- At grade separation study on US 12 between Aberdeen/Elma and on all of SR 8
- Because of the 101 Regional Circulation project the Aberdeen/Hoquiam/Cosmopolis vicinity is identified as a location that requires further analysis. (This is a placeholder for further planning/future construction opportunities).

○ Work Program Recommendations

>Regional Planning Projects – Vicki distributed a handout entitled, “Regional Project Proposal,” to the members. This proposal is to highlight the regional nature of the agency and implement projects that provide benefit to all members. The GHCOG staff proposes a regional project to be selected by the Council. This project will be in addition to the regional transportation planning, GIS mapping and park planning. A presentation, detailing the below listed projects, will be made at the April 24<sup>th</sup> GHCOG Council meeting by Theresa and Julia:

Project #1, Capital Facilities Planning - GHCOG will work with member jurisdictions to develop a simple, but comprehensive, capital facilities plan combining all capital project needs in one document.

Project #2, Industrial Lands Supply Study – A comprehensive review of industrial land needs in Grays Harbor.

Project #3, Regional Trail and Water Access – Create a regional trail and water plan for recreational opportunities.

#### 4. **STAFF REPORTS**

• *Vicki Cummings, Executive Director*

- Working on the Unified Planning Work Program which coordinates what we do as a regional transportation planning organization with the 5-county parent organization which is Cowlitz-Wakiakum with DOT Olympic region.
- Received notification that Congress is considering an additional economic stimulus package this spring, so that means more funding coming our way. This is specifically a push to include money for infrastructure projects that will put people to work or provide lasting public benefit. They have asked us to supply them with three (3) projects that are ready to go and can start within 90 days of receiving funds, go to ad for construction this summer and that are about \$5 million or less. We are working on submitting 1] Port Industrial Road Project at \$4.8 million, 2] US 101 Truck Route Alternative/ EIS at \$5 million and 3] Tri-city operational improvements involving Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Cosmopolis (20 different small projects rolled into one package) at \$4.5 million.

- *Julia Gibb, Community Development Coordinator*
  - Prepared for and presented draft Needs Assessment at dedicated two hour work session in Montesano on March 4, at request of Mayor and Council
  - Finalized Needs Assessments for Montesano based upon Council and Mayor input and any public input and discussed choice of priority project with Mayor - for further attention via toolkit approach (new Public Works shop with city office space)
  - Meet with Robin Leraas, Port of Grays Harbor Manager of Westport Marina
  - Meet with Mayor Bruce of Westport
  - Continue review of Westport (and Westport Marina) plans and policies, continue Ocean Shores review
  - Developed presentation for COG Board on potential countywide projects for COG, subsequent to, and as an outgrowth of, USDA-RCDI grant, with Theresa Julius of COG staff
  - Continue research and data compilation for community development project toolkit both general information and case studies as well as development of specific priority projects identified by cities
  - Scheduled Hoquiam Mayor and Council meeting and Westport Planning Commission meeting to review draft needs assessments
  - Continue responding to requests for community development information
  - Attended March 31 Safe Routes to School DOT Training in Long Beach
  
- *Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator*
  - Provided Hoquiam zoning data layers to WSDOT for environmental review on the Hoquiam sidewalk & ADA ramp project.
  - Supplied CH2M Hill with GIS data for their environmental review for the Pontoon project.
  - Working on the downtown project with the Montesano Planning Commission. The department of Community Trade and Economic Development provides a lot of resources for Downtown Revitalization. If you have a community group working on a downtown issue they might be interested in signing up for the Main Street program at the affiliate level (lowest level). There is no financial commitment. Becoming an affiliate provides access to Main Street resources. The annual Main Street conference is May 13 through May 15 in Wenatchee.  
Contact: Susan Kempf: 360.725.4056, [susank@cted.wa.gov](mailto:susank@cted.wa.gov) CTED Downtown Revitalization: <http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/52/default.aspx>
  - Been working with the City of McCleary to update their city limits and zoning.
  - For the past year, have been working on the re-development of the GHCOG web site. The web page will have a different look and several new resources will be added. Hope to present the new GHCOG web site at the June GHCOG meeting.
  - PDA was happy to receive air photo prints that they may provide to clients.
  - Continuing to work with the Port regarding funding of the 28<sup>th</sup> street landing.

## 5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Vicki distributed a copy of page 6 from the GHCOG Bylaws concerning Section 7.3 Representatives and Section 7.4 Responsibilities of Representatives. She wanted to remind the members that it is their responsibility to attend the GHCOG meetings and if the member cannot attend, to be sure to send an alternate. “Most importantly to make sure that when you come you bring with you the needs, the intentions, and the wants of your agency, but at the

same time when you go back to your council meetings you relay to your council what we have talked about at the table and you bring back to them the discussion, share our regional project proposal with them, get them talking and thinking,” Vicki stated.

Vicki also mentioned Ocean Shores is featured in the latest publication of Coastal Magazine for housing under \$200,000 on the coast, take a look.

## 6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- City of Hoquiam, John Pellegrini  
John reported the process has begun to find a consultant for the pontoon project.
- Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Tom Casey  
Commissioner Casey reported that the PUD spent \$17 million on the December storm, FEMA denied all but \$6 million; essentially they denied all of the work the outside contractors did.
- Department of Transportation, Debbie Clemen  
Debbie said DOT is still concentrating on their work on the Simpson Avenue Bridge.
- City of McCleary, Chris Vessey  
Chris reported that the city has received a grant to build sidewalks on the west end of the city and the Chamber of Commerce will be hanging flower baskets throughout the city and he extended his thanks to the businesses in donating money for this project. Spring cleanup is also on the city’s schedule.
- City of Montesano, Chris Thomas  
Chris reported the city is applying for a loan for their second reservoir; this is their last main project in their water comprehensive plan. They will also be reviewing their comprehensive plan next month.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Chuck Caldwell  
Commissioner Caldwell thanked Commissioner Casey and the PUD for their effort and hard work with the purchase negotiations of the Weyerhaeuser Pulp Mill. He stated the Port has been very busy meeting with 8 to 9 different groups interested in the Port; 2007 has been one of the best years in the past 20.
- City of Westport, Mayor Michael Bruce  
Mayor Bruce reported there will be no foot ferry service this summer from Westport to Ocean Shores, which will be a loss of an estimated 9,000 visitors this summer. A new winery will be having their grand opening this weekend; the winery is located on the Westport highway.
- Quinault Indian Nation, Jonathan Ciesla  
Jonathan reported the Nation is going ahead with the transit study to look at partnering with Grays Harbor Transit and Jefferson Transit in adding service or doing their own van pool service. The Nation has a consultant from Colorado working on this project. They also have hired an economic development planner, Natalie Charlie; she was hired in February.

